

BRIEFS

DATA BREACH DISCOVERED AT IMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A data breach has occurred at Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB) that may have exposed personal information of current and former employees, volunteers, and applicants. Letters mailed to affected individuals on July 6 said IMB "discovered unusual activity in our IT network" on April 11 and began an investigation that confirmed an "unknown external actor" gained access to personnel records that contained names, addresses, birth dates, contact information, Social Security numbers, and limited health information. A July 16 statement released to Baptist Press noted the breach did not affect the IMB's financial systems, email systems, or operational records, and that IMB officials have received no indication as of the date of the statement that the compromised data has been misused. IMB has provided the following points of contact for additional information: <https://ide.myidcare.com/TS1845/frequently-asked-questions>, or telephone (877) 291-4667.

CANADA GOVERNMENT OK'S POT NATIONALLY

OTTAWA, Canada (BP) — Canada's nationwide legalization of recreational marijuana should spur churches to adopt a "more aggressive approach" to warning believers about the spiritual and physical dangers of drug use, a Canadian Baptist leader has said. A bill known as the Cannabis Act passed Canada's Senate on June 19 by a 52-29 vote after passing the House of Commons in November, according to media reports. Adults will be allowed to purchase, possess, share, and cultivate limited quantities of cannabis. Everyone is now going to be exposed, said Gerry Taillon, national ministry leader for the Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC), "so the church is going to have to take a little more aggressive approach to developing [an attack]... and art education [program] against drug abuse."

LifeWay's former Sullivan Tower demolished

Named for Miss. native James L. Sullivan, president of LifeWay forerunner from 1953-1975

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — Thirteen years after the death of the Mississippi Baptist for whom it was named, the 11-story Sullivan Tower on the former campus of LifeWay Christian Resources in downtown Nashville was imploded on July 21.

What continues are James L. Sullivan's monumental legacy as a Southern Baptist statesman and the more than 60 boxes of his papers in the Southern Baptist Library and Historical Archives in Nashville.

Sullivan, a native of Sullivan's Hollow in Waltham County who was baptized at the age of 11 at First Church, Tylertown, was president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville — now LifeWay Christian Resources — from 1953 until his retirement in 1975.

The following year, he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and served a one-year term. He died at the age of 94 on Dec. 27, 2004.

The first two floors of the Art Deco-style building were completed in 1940. Nine more floors were added from 1950 to 1956, and later the building was named for Sullivan.

The former 14.5-acre LifeWay

site is currently being cleared for development into hotel, office buildings, restaurants, retail, and entertainment venues. After selling the property for \$125 million in 2015, LifeWay relocated to a new facility also in downtown Nashville.

Sullivan was "one of the truly great leaders in our convention," said Jimmy Draper, who led LifeWay from 1991 until his 2006 retirement.

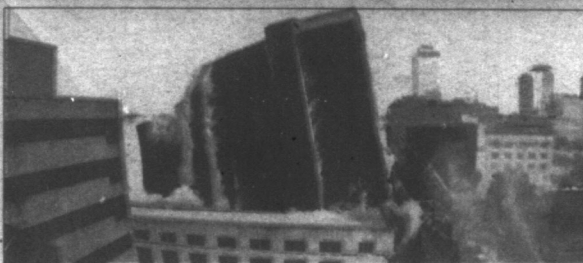
The SBC's strength is "not only because of our devotion to the Scripture as the inerrant Word of God, but also because of spiritual giants who literally saturate the years since 1845 when the SBC was born," said Draper, also a former SBC president.

Sullivan described Southern Baptists' way of doing things — from local congregations and Baptist associations to the state and national conventions supported by churches' gifts through the Cooperative Program — in his classic book, *Baptist Polity As I See It*, initially published in 1983 and expanded in a 1988 edition.

"Those of us in our 90s can remember what it was like before we had a Cooperative Program," Sullivan, at age 91, told the SBC



SULLIVAN



Sullivan Tower

see SULLIVAN on p. 5

Ogea leads 'Group to Team' conference



Backed by lifesize cutouts of personality types found in churches, Reggie Ogea, associate dean of the Professional Doctoral Program at New Orleans Seminary, speaks at Group to Team, a conference sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Department and the Disciple Development Center at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The conference was held at Broadmoor Church, Madison. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Who created Creation?

Maybe it's just me, but I tend to take offense when I read an article or watch a television show that attempts to minimize and/or explain away the incredible glory and majesty and power involved in the creation of all there ever has been and ever will be. God spoke everything into existence (Genesis 1)! What's so unacceptable about that? What's so hard to believe?

My American-style liberal arts education taught me to be open-minded and consider all viewpoints on a matter before making up my mind. That must be why I read those articles and watch those shows, or maybe I'm just a glutton for punishment. Either way, it's impossible for me to take seriously any viewpoint on Creation that doesn't give all the credit to God.

Even when I was in school and the earth's crust was cooling (as my children tell it), there were scientific theories about how the Universe came to be. Much of the information was convincing, and I could see how in His hands God could use all of that to create the Universe, but my class-disrupting questions always were, "...and what came before that?" after I had already asked, "Well, who set off that action? Somebody had to, you know."

Did the Big Bang create the Universe? Well, who set off the Big Bang? Somebody had to, you know, and what came before that? Did lightning strike a mud hole, and our ancestors crawl out? Same questions. Was it a chemical reaction somewhere in earth's super-heated early atmosphere that sparked life? Same questions.

We can't fully understand how the Universe was created, because we can't understand everything. We will never be able to understand everything before Jesus returns. We keep trying, and keep discovering new things about Creation to this day, but how can we ever know everything?

Space.com reported last week that scientists involved in the Planck Mission of the European Space Agency announced that long years of satellite-based research has reaffirmed the standard cosmological model of the composition of the Universe and once again confirmed the existence of the mysterious, undetectable dark matter that dwells invisibly between the matter in the universe that can be detected.

To put that announcement in language even a newspaper editor can understand, it means there's a lot of stuff out there that God created to help hold the Universe together that we still don't understand.

A little closer to home, ichthyologists (fish scientists) in Florida said last week that they have discovered a previously unknown species of dogfish shark in our own Gulf of Mexico. *Squalus Clarkae* was confirmed as a new species when testing proved its DNA is unique from any other known species of shark.

The shark, believed to be 20-28 inches in length at adulthood, also has a number of differentiating body and fin configurations that caught scientists' attention and led to the DNA tests, but the species' enormous, beautiful azure blue eyes that allow the fish to identify food in the darkness of the Gulf's deepest reaches is probably its most prominent feature. Google the shark's scientific name, *Squalus Clarkae*, to see those eyes for yourself.

It's pretty easy to accept that we don't know and won't know everything about the Universe, but we don't even know all there is to know about Creation on our own planet. It's obvious we never will achieve that goal here on earth, either.

Perhaps, then, we should give up the quest to unseat God as Creator of everything and accept that He did it. In the space of just one week, the vastness of the Universe and a little fish just outside our back door proved that fact once again.

Central Asia tightening grip

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (BP and local reports) — Two new requirements for religious organizations seeking government recognition in Uzbekistan are said to evidence of the Central Asian nation's continued restriction of religious liberty.

Central Asia is generally considered to comprise five former Soviet republics, including Uzbekistan (pop. 31 million) and two other countries on the U.S. State Department's list of countries of particular concern (CPCs) for religious liberty violations: Tajikistan (pop. nine million) and Turkmenistan (pop. six million).

Another Central Asian nation, Kazakhstan (pop. six million), has been recommended for inclusion on the State Department's religious liberty watch list by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

The fifth nation in Central Asia is Kyrgyzstan (pop. six million), which is not on the State Department's official list of the world's worst religious liberty offenders, but the 2017 International Religious Freedom Report said authorities there have "imposed restrictions and heightened scrutiny on so-called 'nontraditional' religious groups," despite a constitutional provision of religious freedom.

Afghanistan (pop. 35 million) is also sometimes included on both Central Asia and South Asia maps.

In Uzbekistan, Government Decree 409 was adopted May 31, requiring religious communities to obtain government approval of their religious leaders' educations.

The decree also requires religious education institutions to obtain government approval of their leaders' religious educations, according to Forum 18, a news service that reports on religious liberty violations in Central Asia and the surrounding regions.

The requirements for reporting religious leaders' education are "at present impossible" to fulfill for some organizations, Forum 18 reported, because there is no official government office to recognize foreign religious education.

According to the State Department's International Religious Freedom Report for 2017, Uzbek law "requires religious groups to register with the government and declares religious activities of unregistered groups to be illegal."

Unauthorized instances of evangelism, distributing religious literature, and possessing religious materials — including the

The Front Lines

with Baptist Press

Bible — have resulted in fines, corrective labor, and prison sentences.

Some 83% of Uzbekistan's people have Sunni Muslim backgrounds, Forum 18 reported, and "followers of all religions and beliefs — with no exceptions — face freedom of religion or belief violations" as "part of the regime's intentional systemic policy to control every aspect of society."

According to USCIRF's 2018 Annual Report, some religious liberty advocates were optimistic last year that newly elected President Shavkat Mirziyoyev would relax the repression of religious freedom, but despite some changes in religious policies like easing some restrictions on the practice of Islam, the government has not yet embarked on a major deviation from its overall policy of severe restriction of religious freedom, premised on the threat posed by Islamic extremism.

Among religious liberty violations alleged by Forum 18 in Uzbekistan over the past year:

■ One member of a Baptist church in the city of Karshi was jailed and three others fined for meeting for worship without permission.

■ A Baptist couple's eight-year-old son in the Navoi region was taken from school without his parents' permission and questioned by government officials.

■ A Jehovah's Witness in Urgench was tortured after the religious assembly he attended attempted to obtain state recognition.

Similar persecution allegedly persists in Central Asia's other two CPCs.

Tajikistan continued in 2017 "to suppress displays of public religiosity as well as persecute minority communities. Persons sentenced to prison include alleged Salafists [members of a branch within Sunni Islam], a Jehovah's Witness conscientious objector, and a Protestant pastor," according to USCIRF.

Turkmenistan "is widely considered the most closed of the former Soviet states and this is reflected in the government's severe repression of religious freedom," USCIRF said.

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Adoption agency protection moves forward in Congress

WASHINGTON (BP) — Legislation to prohibit governments from discriminating against adoption and foster care agencies over their religious or moral convictions has taken an initial step toward passage in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee included the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act (CWPIA) in a spending bill approved July 11. The proposal, H.R. 1881, would bar the federal government as well as any state or local governments that receive federal funds from discriminating against or taking action against a child welfare agency that refuses to provide services in a way that conflicts with its religious beliefs or moral convictions, such as placing children with same sex couples.

If enacted, the legislation would require the U.S. Department of Human Services (HHS) to withhold 15% of federal funds from a state or local government that violates its ban.

Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville (ERLC) and other advocates for the bill have called for a federal solution to the growing pattern of state and local governments requiring adoption and foster care agencies to place children with homosexual couples or shut down adoption services.

ERLC President Russell Moore expressed gratitude for the committee's support for the measure. "Protecting the rights of those who are dedicated to caring for the most vulnerable among us only ensures that more children have access to the love and support they so desperately need," Moore told Baptist

Press in written comments.

"This is precisely what the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act would do. Far too many children are waiting, right now, either for adoption or foster families. Our government must not stand in the way of those seeking to care for them."

The CWPIA would not only guarantee faith-based child welfare agencies are not discriminated against, but would further the goal of seeing vulnerable children united with loving families.

ERLC included enactment of the CWPIA as a priority in its 2018 legislative agenda and organized a July 3 letter with nearly 70 signatories that urged the Appropriations Committee to add it to the Labor, HHS, and Education bill.

Nine states have laws that require child welfare agencies to place children with same sex couples for adoption, foster care, or both, according to Reuters News Service: California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, nine other states have enacted measures that protect the right of agencies to abide by their religious or moral convictions in adoption and foster care: Alabama, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Virginia.

The division among the states and threats to agencies in some jurisdictions call for federal action, ERLC and its allies said in the July 3 letter.

"Given the heavy investment of the federal government in child services and the woefully inconsistent territory across the states, we believe this problem justifies

a federal solution through the [CWPIA]," they wrote.

In an apparently barrier-breaking decision July 13, a federal judge in Philadelphia ruled the city can require adoption and foster care agencies with which the city has contracts to place children with homosexual couples, according to NBC News.

The decision is the first of its kind by a federal court, NBC reported.

Catholic Social Services (CSS) had brought suit after Philadelphia's Department of Human Services stopped cooperating with CSS and Bethany Christian Services because they refused to place children in same sex homes.

In another case, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth has been sued for declining to place children with a same sex couple.

U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL), who introduced CWPIA as an amendment to the funding bill and is co-chairman of the House Coalition on Adoption, said after its adoption his goal was "to encourage states to include all experienced and licensed child welfare agencies so that children are placed in caring, loving homes where they can thrive."

"We need more support for these families and children in crisis, not less." Meanwhile, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) — the country's largest political organization advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights — criticized the committee's action.

"Any Member of Congress who supports this amendment is clearly stating that it is more important to them to discriminate than it is to find loving homes for children in need," said David Stacy, HRC's director of government affairs.

Church's roll purge incites media 'circus'

CAVE CITY, Ky. (BP) — Kentucky Baptists are defending a church slammed in secular media outlets over its practice of church discipline.

Cave City (Ky.) Church, 90 miles north of Nashville, sent a letter July 16 to nearly 70 members the church alleges were not attending "habitually," giving "regularly" or sharing in the congregation's "organized work" as required of members in the church's bylaws.

The letter stated, "Cave City Baptist Church cherishes you as a member of this fellowship," but "your name has been removed from the membership roll," according to a photo of the letter published on Facebook. "The doors of Cave City Baptist Church will always be open to you," the letter added.

Within two days, newspapers and television stations had reported on the letter in Nashville; Louisville, Ky.; Lexington, Ky.; and Bowling Green, Ky. Headlines included: "Church members furious after pastor revokes memberships," and "Kentucky church sent letters kicking out members over common transgressions."

Cave City pastor Ryan Broers told Baptist Press (BP) via text message he is "weary of the media circus" and "lots of lies and half-truths are being told."

"I really wish this thing would have remained a private issue," Broers said. "The only reason I commented publicly is that it became public knowledge when a man who has not been to the church in 20 years made it public on Facebook."

"This is a church discipline issue and we are following our bylaws. Many attempts for several years were made both in letters and in person when people could be located and were willing to speak. If anyone feels they received the letters in error, they are welcome to call and have a conversation with me."

Among Baptists to defend the church, Southern Seminary administrator Hershael York in Louisville, Ky., said in a series of tweets that he asked the Lexington Herald-Leader staff member who reported on Cave City Church "if the Rotary Club dismissing members for non-attendance and non-payment of dues is noteworthy."

York, dean-designate of Southern Seminary's school of theology, added that a fair headline would be, "Church requires members to take their commitment seriously."

York, who also serves as pastor of Buck Run Church in

Frankfort, Ky., told BP he tweeted in response to the Herald-Leader's coverage because "I don't want churches to be afraid to do church discipline well and do church discipline right because they fear a reaction."

David Prince, pastor of Lexington's Ashland Avenue Church, tweeted that the Herald-Leader was "outraged a church would care about its members enough to hold them accountable. Where's their outrage over other groups that have standards?"

Broers said sending the letter was a collaborative decision made by him, associate pastor Steven Wilson, and the chairman of deacons — with "the deacons' support."

Broers has pastored Cave City for only about a year, but the process of contacting absentee members has spanned the past eight years, he said. At least three letters have gone out, and home visits have been attempted, the pastor said, noting shut-ins receive pastoral visits and are not subject to church discipline for failing to attend.

Broers told BP that in hindsight, "I wish we would have worded the letter differently." Still, he added in a Facebook post, "I know it [the letter] won't make me popular (none who preached the truth in the Bible were thought well of) but I am not in a popularity contest. I'm trying to point people to Jesus and the inherent responsibilities that come along with being a follower of Christ."

Among disgruntled letter recipients, Samantha Esters told Bowling Green's WBKO television station she attended Cave City Church three weeks prior to receiving the notification and did not "ever want to go back to that church."

Lynn Traylor, director of missions for the Liberty Association of Baptists in Glasgow, Ky., with which Cave City Church cooperates, wrote in a July 20 e-mail to the association's churches that social media and news outlets "are telling only one side of the story."

"I personally spoke with the Pastor at Cave City, who assures me that this is not a unilateral action on his part (as has been wrongly communicated) and that the church did due diligence in contacting and communicating with members prior to the mailing which was publicized by many who were not in contact with or members of the church," Traylor wrote.

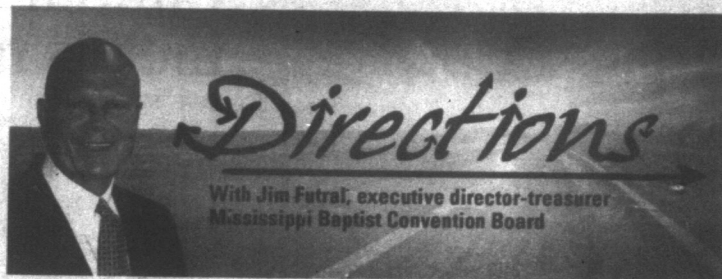
"I know it [the letter] won't make me popular (none who preached the truth in the Bible were thought well of) but I am not in a popularity contest. I'm trying to point people to Jesus and the inherent responsibilities that come along with being a follower of Christ."

Ryan Broers, Cave City pastor

Not long ago I was walking through a cemetery, just looking down at grave markers. I knew some of the people buried there and maybe had conducted their funeral and graveside services. I saw a grave I had never noticed before. It was a single grave with a man's name on the marker, and underneath his name was a quotation apparently from him: "I did my best ... sometimes." When I saw that quotation, it stopped me. I was there by myself and I just stared at the quotation. I thought about why he would put that on his grave. I did not know the man. To my knowledge, I had no contact with him or ever had any knowledge of him, but I thought his words could probably be on virtually every grave marker in the cemetery and maybe every other cemetery.

The quotation is true of all of us, especially me. All of us at some time or other probably have done our best, and at other times we haven't quite given our best. As I stood there I came to grips with the fact that this is may be the most honest guy I had ever come across in a cemetery, a man who would live and die and say, "I did my best ... sometimes." I thought about myself and I thought about so many great servants of God about whom it could be said, "I did my best ... sometimes."

I thought about Samson (Judges 13-16). With great expectations of what he was going to do for the Lord, he really did do his best ... sometimes. He stood true to the Lord and took on those who were against the Lord and did battle



I Did My Best ... Sometimes

with a jawbone of a donkey. However, the best way to describe Samson may be that he just played around with his calling, joking with a woman who wanted to know the secret of his power. He was less than serious and not totally committed to the Lord. His life and ministry began to decline. He ended up blinded and in chains. He wondered if God could use him ever again. It could be said, he did his best ... sometimes.

I thought about David (1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 2), the great king of Israel who is still lauded for all of his greatness whether in writing songs or going to battle. He well could have said in his last breath, "I did my best ... sometimes." There were those times when he clearly did not do his best. He was at the height of his glory, I suppose, when

he volunteered to take on a great giant and later, when he was asked to be king and was anointed — but when his troops were headed out to battle, he stayed home and leered at a woman not his wife that he wanted to have. Maybe the best known moment in his life is when he gave in to his desire and entered an adulterous relationship with the woman. In putting all of his life together, he probably could have written across it, "I did my best ... sometimes."

The great New Testament character of Simon Peter is the most vocal, potentially most outstanding of all of the disciples of Jesus. In truth, he had great moments and he did his best ... sometimes. He was the only disciple of which we are aware who ever walked on water because of his trust in Christ (Matthew

14: 22-31). He was the one who spoke out confidently to say to Jesus, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. (Matthew 26:31-35 KJV)." There were shining moments in his life, but under pressure he denied Jesus with a curse again and again and again (Luke 22:54-62). That was not his finest hour. He would go on to preach at the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47) and thousands would come to commit their lives to Jesus. It could easily be put on his gravestone, "I did my best ... sometimes."

Make your own list. Put anyone you want to on there — Noah, Jeremiah, Solomon, Saul, Paul, me, and maybe yourself. No one ever lived giving their best all the time, every time, in every situation and in every crisis, except one person. He stands alone in all of time and history, for He did do His best ... all the time. The sinless Savior, Jesus, who came and loved and gave His life just for you and me, left an empty tomb because He not only did His best, He did His best in being raised from the dead. Neither sin, nor death, nor the grave could hold Him. It can only be said of Him, He did His best. It wasn't just for Him. He didn't even have to come and live among us, be treated the way He was, and then die for our sins — but He did, just for you and me. Thanks be to God that in Jesus Christ the living Lord it could be said, "He did His best ... all the time." Thank You, Lord.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

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XOXZJNC CERQ.

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Clue: O = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah 24:11

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Revivals & Homecomings

► **McAdams Church, McAdams:** Revival, July 29 – Aug. 1; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, speaker; James E. Young, pastor.
► **Bethel Church, Bogus:** Chitto: Revival, July 29 –

Aug. 1, 7 p.m.; Preston Nix, speaker; Eric McNair, worship leader.

► **County Line Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, July 29; services, 10:45 a.m. followed by lunch; Ricky Sherman, speaker; Allen Peoples, pastor.

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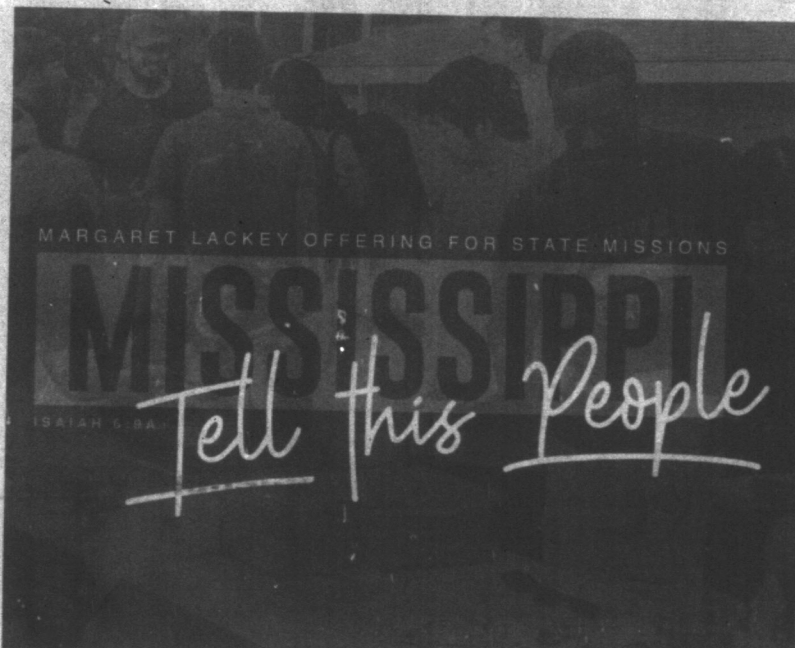
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 26, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

MISSISSIPPI

ISAIAH 60:1

Tell this People

VALUES OF THE MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

- Sharpens our focus on mission needs in Mississippi, and trains leaders to respond evangelistically.
- Adds valuable funding to mission networks and leaders who are prepared to work in Mississippi.
- Encourages churches to become more involved in calling and sending Mississippi missionaries.
- Enlarges our witness in Mississippi by planting new churches. Two million of our neighbors are not actively participating in church.

2018 GOAL: \$2,100,000

Contact our Mission Strategy Department at 601-292-3231 or e-mail bbridges@mbcb.org for more information.

UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT

Celebrating
Missions & Ministries

WMU ANNUAL MEETING AND LEADERSHIP
TRAINING FOR WMU MISSIONS AND
WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

AUGUST 17-18, 2018 | GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
For more information, contact the WML/WM at 601-292-3317

REVELATION

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW

Dates: September 4, 11, 13
Registration: 8:30-9:00 a.m.
Preview: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Register online at www.mbcb.org/jbs to receive a 50% discount on the purchase of your leader guide. You will receive your book at the event.

For more info, contact the Sunday School/Small Groups Department at elindlgrin@mbcb.org or call 601-292-3292.

ONLINE GIVING

Do you want to avoid the stress of cash flow for your church? Online giving is the way to do it! It inspires the younger generation to give and moves you into the world of tomorrow!

Contact the Stewardship Department at 601-292-3347 or llevell@mbcb.org for suggestions and additional information.



The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were received by the business office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2018, through June 30, 2018. An ^{***} denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the business office at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651. Thank you.

	Comp.	Other	Total
ADAMS			
CLIFF TEMPLE	412.37	742.27	1,154.54
OLIVE	15,992.29	6,663.19	22,655.98
HIGHLAND	363.45	551.73	915.18
FRANKLIN	62,299.42	26,299.42	139,600.00
CHAMP	14,309.13	13,436.55	27,745.68
IRRAWADDY	2,912.00	1,990.00	4,902.00
WILSON	17,172.41	1,990.00	19,162.41
MANHATTAN	28,990.00	24,469.74	53,459.74
SPRINGFIELD	3,171.00	635.00	3,806.00
WASHINGTON	9,153.45	10,302.00	19,455.45
ADAMS TOTAL	170,644.83	158,346.28	328,991.11
ALCON			
ASSOCIATION		250.00	250.00
ANTIOCH	6,560.41	11,844.68	18,405.09
BETHLEHEM	1,845.88	2,768.82	4,614.70
BETHLEHEM	579.44		579.44
CALVARY	1,122.37	3,621.71	4,744.08
COUNTRY LINE	700.00	10,936.77	11,636.77
DEARBORN	600.00		600.00
EAST COUNTRY	1,164.47	1,188.02	2,352.49
FRICK BIGGEVILLE	412.55	296.78	709.33
FRICK	117,429.91	5,976.69	123,406.60
GLENDALE	1,030.02	6,619.16	7,649.18
HINGLE	167.24	1,002.00	1,169.24
HOLLY	7,665.24	25,145.57	32,810.81
MAINTO	616.40	659.60	1,276.00
OLIVE CHAPEL	1,940.00	1,840.00	3,780.00
PEACHTREE	3,620.70	4,194.38	7,815.08
LIBERTY HILL	1,026.60	950.00	1,976.60
LOVEJOY	300.00		300.00
LOVEJOY	203.36	45,336	45,539.36
NORTH COUNTRY			250.00
OLIVE CHAPEL	54,634.51	125,200.00	179,834.51
RIDGECREST	433.26	907.26	1,340.52
ROCK	990.00	3,750.00	4,740.00
SOUTH COUNTRY	7,627.34	6,962	14,589.34
SOUTH COUNTRY	200.00	997.85	1,197.85
TATE	22.34	97.34	119.68
TRULINGBORG CHAPEL	251.18	2,898.48	3,149.66
TUSCUMBIA	1,745.01	5,170.53	6,915.54
WILSON	5,992.00	1,840.00	7,832.00
VICTORY	730.00	157,000	157,730.00
WEST COUNTRY	4,311.02	13,036.02	17,347.04
WILSON CHAPEL	1,000.00		1,000.00
ALCON TOTAL	311,583.26	346,368.28	657,951.54
ATLANTA			
BEAR CREEK	828.48	622.17	1,450.65
BOWLER	86.61	173.23	259.84
COUNTRY RIDGE	3,600.00	3,400.00	7,000.00
CENTER	992.00	1,392.00	2,384.00
DEARBORN	55,199.00	5,076.69	60,275.69
OLIVE SPRINGS	1,825.28	6,591.57	8,416.85
BRENNER	5,617.00	3,811.00	9,428.00
DEARBORN	6,918.00	1,850.00	8,768.00
FRICK ROSKIDLO	9,410.68	77,465.19	86,875.87
HARVEST MOON CHURCH	200.00	2,112.00	2,312.00
IRRAWADDY	2,394.50	1,840.00	4,234.50
IRRAWADDY	2,09.30	4,034.54	4,143.84
MEADOWS	3,551.41	8,180.57	11,731.98
NEW COUNTRY	6,159.66	6,250.00	12,409.66
NORTH UNION	300.00	900.00	1,200.00
NORTH UNION	5,712.86	6,031.00	11,743.86
PEACHTREE REST	1,424.50	2,021.44	3,445.94
PEACHTREE	1,424.50	1,940.00	3,364.50
SAND HILL	2,431.99	1,048.32	3,480.31
SECOND ROCKS COUNTRY	1,234.17	2,742.60	3,976.77
SHILOH	2,275.82	4,731.62	7,007.44
UNITY	2,275.82	12,776.65	15,052.47
WILLIAMSVILLE	26,431.15	12,776.65	39,207.80
ATLANTA TOTAL	174,674.31	175,373.32	349,997.23
BENTON-TOWNSHIP			
ASSOCIATION		700.00	700.00
ATLANTA	3,456.92	3,446.53	6,903.45
ASHLAND	10,375.06	12,233.61	22,608.67
BUFF SPRINGS	431.00	1,155.00	1,586.00
CHAMP	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
CANAWA	100.00	713.00	813.00
CHATEAU	1,554.00	2,339.00	3,893.00

MCCABE	4,168.00	2,599.00	6,327.00
MIT OLIVE	1,761.00	1,151.00	3,012.00
MCCABE	7,857.67	4,959.00	12,617.32
NORTH BETHL	1,886.89	2,278.84	4,665.73
RENOVATION	900.00	900.00	1,800.00
NORTH CARROLLTON	4,221.21	4,401.90	8,623.11
PROVINCIA	5,503.31	6,511.59	12,014.96
WILSON	2,151.52	1,817.52	3,911.52
VAIDEN	24,375.56	30,157.59	54,733.15
VALLEY HILL	89.89	89.89	179.78
CALDWELL Total	92,261.21	141,882.29	235,266.74
CHOCMAW			
AMITY	2,260.74	1,240.00	3,520.74
ARBOR GROVE	4,649.82	6,059.50	10,709.32
BETHL	4,174.22		4,174.22
RENOVATION		992.00	992.00
FRC HOULKA	6,072.05	4,182.00	12,854.07
RENOVATION	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
FRC OKOGLONA	6,801.23	3,714.00	14,217.23
FRC WOODLAND	726.80	593.00	1,319.80
RENOVATION	900.00	900.00	1,800.00
MCCOY		1,400.00	1,400.00
MIT OLIVE		241.00	241.00
RENOVATION	300.00	300.00	600.00
PARKWAY	13,449.43	24,407.46	37,857.09
PLASANT GROVE	2,460.00	2,460.00	4,920.00
RENOVATION	2,460.00	3,860.00	5,340.00
SOOKNOOR VALLEY	180.00	100.00	280.00
SILCOX	11,815.11	11,815.11	23,630.22
VALLEY	16,700.00	10,000.00	26,700.00
CHOCMAW Total	107,642.48	81,852.93	161,795.33
CHOCIAW			
ACKERMAN	12,450.00	10,015.04	30,465.04
ANTHONY	4,005.35	2,716.00	6,721.35
RYTHE CREEK	1,895.00	2,007.50	3,902.00
CHESTER	8,378.55	5,901.50	14,820.05
RENOVATION	2,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
FELLOWSHIP	1,438.00	2,037.00	3,465.00
HENTRESS	3,500.00	3,500.00	7,000.00
RENOVATION	3,500.00	5,501.11	9,001.11
HOPWELL	4,925.00	1,700.00	6,625.00
RENOVATION	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,800.00
MIT PEGAH	2,104.11	8,725.47	10,829.58
NEW HAVEN	3,141.76	1,102.43	4,244.19
RENOVATION	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
PROVINCIA	2,000.00	2,850.00	4,850.00
VICTORY	1,330.63	1,190.18	2,520.81
RENOVATION	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
CHOCIAW Total	56,764.21	61,093.31	122,133.83
CLANES			
ANTHONY	9,420.00	1,148.00	2,090.60
BUCATUNNA	4,700.00	2,716.00	7,416.00
CLANES	2,646.15	2,103.10	4,749.25
CENTER	150.00	620.00	770.00
RENOVATION	5,300.00	5,300.00	10,600.00
EAST PLEASANT GROVE	1,002.00	2,820.00	3,822.00
HENTRESS	780.00	5,401.00	6,181.00
RENOVATION	17,547.19	19,834.00	37,381.19
FRC QUITMAN	44,437.80	33,511.99	77,949.79
FRC STONEWALL	10,600.04	8,099.09	18,699.13
HENTRESS	4,005.35	2,716.00	6,721.35
HEBRON RIDGE	750.00	850.00	1,600.00
HEMBERTON	1,711.15	1,144.00	2,855.15
RENOVATION	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,800.00
MOH RISE	3,189.42	2,558.00	5,747.42
MIT ZION	1,704.60	1,102.43	2,807.03
RENOVATION	377.80	266.00	643.80
OAK GROVE	704.10	1,334.10	2,038.20
PHALTI	1,217.05	296.00	1,513.05
PINE GROVE	2,543.13	1,150.00	3,693.13
RENOVATION	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
PLEASANT GROVE	880.31	300.00	1,180.31
PLEASANT HILL	14,082.82	13,869.67	27,952.49
RENOVATION	1,415.00	1,415.00	2,830.00
SHURITA		2,268.67	2,268.67
SOULENOMIE	3,827.00	2,650.00	6,477.00
CLANES Total	125,497.81	119,099.48	252,517.39
COLLABORATIVE MN			
ANCHOR	33,692.00	18,308.32	52,000.32
BABY CHRIST	6,800.00	6,700.00	13,500.00
BAV SPRINGS	732.00	1,680.00	2,412.00
BETHANY	1,000.00	1,751.50	2,751.50
BROADWAY	900.00	1,000.00	2,382.00
BROOKSIDE	3,000.00	2,062.50	2,062.50
CALDWELL SPRINGS	3,433.00	3,433.00	6,866.00
CALDWELLTOWNSHIP	3,033.58	4,372.99	7,356.17
CARY CHAPEL	6,200.57	2,025.95	8,276.92
RENOVATION	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
CEAR HAVEN	335.00		335.00
CLEAR CREEK LAMAR	950.20	2,188.20	3,146.40
CLANES	2,646.15	2,103.10	4,749.25
COLLEGE HILL HEIGHTS	10,193.65	3,181.15	16,307.40
RENOVATION	2,209.16	1,261.15	5,490.46
LOUARK		100.00	100.00
FAITHFULITY	675.60	867.00	1,513.40
FAYTOWNSHIP	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
FRC AMBIVILLE	10,480.96	14,546.32	25,027.28
FRC ITHACA	5,012.96	2,186.31	7,199.27
FRC LITTLE SPRINGS	10,000.00	21,400.00	31,400.00
FRC OXFORD	102,645.00	122,729.48	225,374.48
FRC PUTTS CAMP	3,005.28	7,401.07	16,406.35
FRC TOWNSHIP		3,600.00	3,600.00
GRACE	200.00	5,544.70	5,744.70
GRACE HILL CHURCH	6,600.00		6,600.00
HARTFORD	5,996.00	4,471.28	10,467.28
HILL CREST	319.54	1,042.50	1,362.04
HILL CREST BETHL	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
NEW PROSPECT	12,294.35	2,645.70	14,939.25
NORTH OXFORD	123,299.84	63,120.55	206,620.55
OXFORD KOREAN COMM	50.00	250.00	300.00
PARIS	1,758.50	2,047.50	3,806.00
RENOVATION	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
RED BANKS	8,633.38	3,227.22	13,890.60
SALUDA	11,790.06	41,531.01	52,921.07
SEVEN SPRINGS	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
SLAYDEN	22,432.35	34,446.86	56,879.21
TAYLOR	11,713.00	8,932.00	20,645.00
TAYLOR	1,866.69	1,845.69	3,712.34
TULLA	5,520.00	3,133.37	10,334.07
VALLEY HAVEN	2,448.00	2,527.50	4,975.50
YELLOW LEAF	15,250.99	21,837.28	37,388.27
COLLABORATIVE MN Total	475,428.37	476,984.96	952,413.33
COPPAH			
ASSOCIATION		435.00	435.00
ANTHONY	1,826.24	7,242.00	9,068.24
BETHL	6,303.70	6,546.59	13,050.29
COCKS LINE	999.35	2,027.00	3,026.35
MANASSAS	96.61	336.43	433.04
FRC CRYSTAL SPRINGS	50,209.66	53,030.54	83,240.20
RENOVATION	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
CLARE	11,666.61	480.24	12,146.85
GALILEE		40.24	40.24
CALHMAN	4,401.00	1,002.14	5,403.14
RENOVATION	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
GEORGETOWN	3,000.00	3,265.00	6,265.00
HARMONY	1,550.99	3,772.01	5,322.99
RENOVATION	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
HOPWELL	681.00	1,937.50	2,618.50
NEW PROVIDENCE	538.00	1,693.00	2,231.00
RENOVATION	11,712.24	3,300.00	15,012.24
PEARL VALLEY	1,221.13	1,230.00	2,451.13
PEPPER BEST	10,776.69	3,695.00	14,471.69
PINE BLUFF		1,180.00	1,180.00
PLEASANT HILL		331.47	331.47
PLEASANT SPRINGS	1,350.00	2,825.00	4,175.00
ROCKY HILL	63.00	240.00	303.00
SARDS	1,005.27	2,000.00	2,925.27
VALLEY HILL	153.40	920.00	1,073.40
WAYNES	2,330.00	3,510.00	5,840.00
SPRING HILL	63.00	7,935.13	16,935.13
STEVENS	2,332.00	500.00	6,732.00
TESSON	12,164.00	5,740.00	17,904.00
WESTON	600.00	915.00	1,515.00
ZION HILL	4,299.98	11,079.98	16,079.98
COPPAH Total	137,812.77	142,116.68	279,929.45
COWPERT DAVIS			
ANTHONY		185.00	185.00
ANTIOCH			
BASSFIELD	237.84	7,240.00	11,598.84
CLANES	2,646.15	2,103.10	4,749.25

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Coop. Program				Coop. Program				Coop. Program				Coop. Program			
Other				Other				Other				Other			
GOOD HOPE				GOOD HOPE				GOOD HOPE				GOOD HOPE			
INDIAN SPRINGS				INDIAN SPRINGS				INDIAN SPRINGS				INDIAN SPRINGS			
JANICE				JANICE				JANICE				JANICE			
LORD OF THE				LORD OF THE				LORD OF THE				LORD OF THE			
MEMORIAL				MEMORIAL				MEMORIAL				MEMORIAL			
PROSPECT				PROSPECT				PROSPECT				PROSPECT			
SEMINARY				SEMINARY				SEMINARY				SEMINARY			
ST. JOHNS HILL				ST. JOHNS HILL				ST. JOHNS HILL				ST. JOHNS HILL			
TOTAL				TOTAL				TOTAL				TOTAL			
1,786.00				1,786.00				1,786.00				1,786.00			
530.41				530.41				530.41				530.41			
1,246.00				1,246.00				1,246.00				1,246.00			
1,215.00				1,215.00				1,215.00				1,215.00			
4,780.50				4,780.50				4,780.50				4,780.50			
219.00				219.00				219.00				219.00			
1,919.00				1,919.00				1,919.00				1,919.00			
1,934.00				1,934.00				1,934.00				1,934.00			
14,240.00				14,240.00				14,240.00				14,240.00			
56,580.00				56,580.00				56,580.00				56,580.00			
77,891.92				77,891.92				77,891.92				77,891.92			
134,211.95				134,211.95				134,211.95				134,211.95			
BALA CHITTO				BALA CHITTO				BALA CHITTO				BALA CHITTO			
BLUFF SPRINGS				BLUFF SPRINGS				BLUFF SPRINGS				BLUFF SPRINGS			
BOGUE CHITTO				BOGUE CHITTO				BOGUE CHITTO				BOGUE CHITTO			
CLAYTON				CLAYTON				CLAYTON				CLAYTON			
CENTRAL				CENTRAL				CENTRAL				CENTRAL			
EAST UNION				EAST UNION				EAST UNION				EAST UNION			
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There could be a special called session of the Legislature in the middle of August. A state lottery could be part of the agenda for that special session. Whether or not these two potential situations become reality will be decided by our GOVERNOR.

Our Governor used his State of the State address in January, 2017, to push for a state lottery. Because of good men and women in our Legislature, we survived the 2017 regular session without a state lottery.

Then, because of unfinished business during that regular session, the Governor had an excuse to call for a special session in the summer of 2017. We survived that special session without a lottery.

Then came the Special Study Committee to research the state lotteries around us—that the Governor said were getting all our money. We sent the committee our letter opposing the

lottery for obvious moral and economic reasons. We are still waiting for their report—which was due before the January session of 2018.

Everyone, well, nearly everyone, thought a state lottery was a done deal during the past regular session. But again, because many of you spoke out and because of good men and women in the Capitol, we survived this past regular session without a state lottery.

I've heard that "the third time is charmed." And yet our Governor could make a fourth attempt in 20 months to save his legacy with a state lottery. If he succeeds in August, his legacy will be the LOTTERY.

Here we go again

In spite of the jobs that will be lost in our state because of a lottery, he continues to push for it. In spite of the small businesses that will shut down because of a lottery, he continues to push. In spite of asking lower income citizens to pay a bigger share of our roads and bridges, he continues to push. In spite of the fact that a lottery will put a huge burden on every church to provide food and gas for those who wasted their money on lottery tickets, he continues to push. In spite of the fact that the state's part of the revenue from a state lottery is only a drop in the bucket compared to the total budget of our state, he continues

to push for a state lottery.

How did our state economy get in such bad shape with all that money that a former Governor promised from CASINO gambling? What is the next quick cure in the future?

In the words of President Reagan, "there you go again." This issue is still on the bubble. Unless many of you speak up and contact the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker, and your Senator and Representative, there could be another effort in August to start a state lottery. I hope not, and I pray not, but unless many of you contact our elected leaders, I fear "Here we go again."

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

NOBTS announces Fall 2018 classes at Broadmoor, Madison

TERRY (Special) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) again will be offering undergraduate seminary classes for Fall 2018 through Leavell College's Jackson Extension Center at Broadmoor Church, Madison. The following classes will meet on Mondays starting August 20:

■ **Introduction to Christian Education** (three hours credit), 1-4 p.m. Instructor: Jamie Holden, minister of education, Hillcrest Church, Byram.

■ **The Practice of Evangelism** (three hours credit), 4-7 p.m. Instructor: John Pace, senior pastor, First Church, Terry.

■ **New Testament Elective: The Synoptic Gospels** — Matthew, Mark, and Luke (3 hours credit), 7-10 p.m. Instructor: Clint Ritchie, pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

Through this extension program, NOBTS offers accredited, affordable, local theological training allowing students access to high quality seminary education without relocating. Through the Jackson Extension Center, students can pursue and obtain an Associate in Christian Ministry Degree and/or a Bachelor's of Arts in Christian Ministry Degree.

NOBTS offers classes in a variety of formats that allows students to cater their schedule to meet their needs. Students can combine classes at the extension center with online classes, workshops, conference-based courses, and hybrid courses to obtain the requirements needed for a degree.

To see the cycle of classes offered, as well as other important information about the Jackson

Extension Center, go to www.nobts.edu/Extensions/LAMS-Centers/Jackson1.html.

For more information or to start the application and enrollment process, contact John Pace, Jackson Extension Center director, at cell (601) 559-9352; church (601) 878-5735; or e-mail thepacepack@aol.com. Website: www.nobts.edu.

Jody Dean, NOBTS regional dean for Louisiana and Mississippi, may be contacted at (800) NOBTS-01 ext. 3301, or lmex-tasst@nobts.edu.

To begin the application and enrollment process, visit www.nobts.edu and click "Apply," then click "Undergraduate Applications," then click "Undergraduate Degree," and start the application process by providing the requested information.

SULLIVAN

cont. from p. 1

annual meeting in New Orleans in 2001.

After being baptized at age 11 into Tylertown Church, Sullivan said he received a box of offering envelopes divided into two sections — one for the church and one for various Baptist causes.

He recalled trying to figure out how to divide in half his tithe of a nickel.

"It was a wonderful day when our pastor and people came back from the [1925] Southern Baptist Convention to report we had the Cooperative Program," Sullivan

said. "We would tithe one offering and then the church would decide how it would give."

He said Tylertown Church voted to send 40% of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

"When we put a dollar into the offering plate, it touches the world," he said.

Draper remembers a particularly valiant but difficult battle Sullivan fought during his tenure at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"He lived courageously, as his stand supporting the 1953 Supreme Court decision for desegregation caused him to be so harassed for that stand that he

received many death threats. He had to move his family out of Nashville to a suburban area in order to get better security.

"I don't think most folks in our convention ever realized what a true champion of biblical values and principles he was, even if it was controversial," Draper said.

"He stood strong as a Southern Baptist leader, and he died with complete confidence in the Lord he loved and served so faithfully."

Editor's note: Screen capture of Sullivan Tower implosion on page one is courtesy of Wayne Mann/Baptist Press. Photograph of Sullivan Tower on page one is courtesy of Baptist Press.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director
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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MAY MEMORIALS

David Ray
Ms. Mary Lou Lott
Mr. Chris Reid
Ms. Barbara Curlee
Mr. Dick Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Blair
Ms. Wilma Holstein and Family
Richard Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Ches Brewer
Mrs. Martha Richardson
Faithful Workers SSC,
Oak Forest BC
Mr. Jerry Ricks
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Roberts, Jr.,
Abby, Russell, Julie, Owen
Mr. James Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mr. Harry Savell
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Rushing
Charles Sessions
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes
Nell Shelby
Mr. & Mrs. Billy G. Hastings
Mr. Carroll Smith
Ms. Linda B. Vance
Mrs. Sandra Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse R. Johnson
Iva Steel
Mr. & Mrs. Billy G. Hastings
Mrs. Lilla Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Wolverton
Mr. Lamont Jarrell
Mr. Randy Stewart
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Rev. Leon Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Pannell
John Switzer
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy
Hollingsworth
Rita Tankley
Ladies Adult IV SSC, McCool BC

Mr. William Terry
Hollandale BC
Mr. Billy Thames
The Rogers Family
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Ms. Evelyn Thornton
Mrs. Charlotte Tisdale
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Ms. Dorothy Townsend
Calvary BC
Mr. & Mrs. Gene McMichael
and Family
Hazel Vandevender
Mr. Kirk Vandevender
Alice Walker
Ms. Mary Lou Lott
Mr. Harold Warnock
Mrs. Anna K. Cockerham
Jean Watts
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Ms. Cathy Tribble
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Mrs. Pearl Wiley
Ms. Ellen W. White
Mrs. Stephanie Jo Pulmer
Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Perry
Bob Newman Family - Barbara,
Sarah, Mary Ann and Donna
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Archer
Suzanna Williamson
Ms. Linda B. Vance
"Mel" DeLoach Wilson
Delbert & Yvonne Edwards
Ms. Glynda Woodruff
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Fulton
Mrs. Dot Worley
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

JUNE

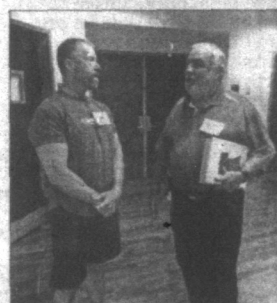
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Mr. Perry Atherton
Mrs. Virginia H. Atherton
Ms. Elizabeth Tatson
Mrs. Lois Gill Jernison
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas (Linda)
Easley
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Sanders
Mrs. Theresa Falton
FBC Louisville
Ms. Martha Howes
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Gatlin
Mr. Robert McCarley
FBC Vicksburg
Mr. Sean Milner
Mr. Ed Grisham
Ms. Theresa Parish
Mrs. Phyllis Mize
Camden and Kyndal Patton
Mrs. Renee Westbrooks
Mr. David Rainey
Mr. Ed Grisham
Ms. Norma Wilcutt
Mrs. Nina Ray
Mrs. Dot Wiloughby
Mrs. E. J. Grisham, Sr.

JUNE

MEMORIALS

Mr. Bernal Bacon
Mr. & Mrs. Morris E. Newton, Jr.
Mrs. Faye Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mrs. Penny Washington
Mr. Hugh Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Ms. Juanita Barletta
Eddieton BC
Thompson and Lillie Mae Barlow
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tillman
Mr. Wade Barnhill
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Dean
Ms. Bernice Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Ms. Mary Flo Blackstone
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peeples
Mrs. Linda Blaine
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mrs. Jerome Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas, Jr.
Mr. Stanley Brewer
Arlington BC
Mr. James Bridges
Mrs. Bobbie Bridges and
Family
Mr. Blayze Broadus
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Mr. Lloyd Brown Jr.
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Ms. Jeannine Burgess
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Mr. Dwayne Burns
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Ms. Minnie Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Davis
Ms. Molly Williamson Cox
The Ramond Stokes Family
Mrs. Mandalyn Crane
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop
Mrs. Eloise Crawley
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Forbes



The Baptist Children's Village/Mississippi Baptist Orphanage Bi-Annual Alumni Reunion was held Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond, Mississippi. This event is held every other year and open to all former residents and staff along with their families. It is a wonderful opportunity for Mississippi's largest family to reconnect with friends and family, reminisce about all the special times, and give thanks for all God has done.

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Restored • 2 Samuel 19:1-15

Last week's lesson overview closed with David and most of his court running for their lives from Jerusalem. This was a sad but needed escape. Absalom was tricked into not taking advantage of this weak moment of disarray. But we are studying a very sad time in David's life even though he is restored to his castle and reign over all of Israel. The historian recording this period of Israel's history wrote this of David's frantic escape from Jerusalem, "David was climbing the slope of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he ascended. His head covered, and he was walking barefoot," 2 Samuel 15:30 (CSB). Picture in your mind God's anointed king (a man after God's own heart who killed a Giant with a sling shot) running away barefoot.

Today's key passage tells us, "The King is weeping. He's mourning over Absalom. . . . But the king covered his face and cried loudly, 'My son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!'" 2 Samuel 19:1-4 (CSB). David's troops had beaten the rebel forces under Absalom but his son had been killed by Joab. David had ordered Joab not to kill his son even though 20,000 soldiers from his army would die defending David from Absalom's rebellion.

David was so distraught over his son's death that the army was denied

their victorious return. "That day's victory was turned into mourning for all the troops because on that day the troops heard, 'The king is grieving over his son.' So they returned to the city quietly that day like troops come in when they are humiliated after fleeing in battle," 2 Samuel 19:2-3 (CSB). David's mourning was completely out of control and he was not functioning well as a ruling monarch. Dr. Duane A. Garrett,

Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Southern Seminary and author of the Bible commentary for this quarter's leader's guide said "David lamented inconsolably" and "David's failure as a leader could hardly be more complete."

"Joab went into the house of the king and said, 'Today you have shamed all your soldiers—those who saved your life as well as your sons, your wives . . . you have made it clear that the commanders and soldiers mean nothing to you. In fact, today I know that if Absa-

lom were alive and all of us were dead, it would be fine with you!'" 2 Samuel 19:5-6 (CSB). The commanders of David's army had realized how susceptible he was to losing control over trying to protect his son that they had begged him not to go out into battle with them for fear he would breakdown on the battlefield if he thought his son Absalom was hurt or in danger. Fortunately, David had listened to his generals

and adviser and stayed away from the battle field.

One of David's strengths was he would listen to those who challenged

Explore the Bible with Don Hicks



his poor behavior and decisions. When Nathan challenged his actions over his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah, he repented and sought forgiveness from God. Here in today's Bible Story, David took heed of the harsh warning from Joab. As an absolute monarch, he could order Joab executed for such a harsh attack on his behavior. David listened and heeded Joab's warning when he boldly said,

"Now get up! [I believe that Commander Joab was using his full loud command voice.] Go out and encourage your soldiers, for I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will remain with you tonight. This will be worse for you than all the trouble that has come to you from your youth until now!" 2 Samuel 19:7.

Once again King David listened and acted quickly on good advice. "So the king got up and sat in the city gate, and all the people were told: 'Look, the King is sitting in the city gate.' Then they all came into the King's presence," 2 Samuel 19:8 (CSB). It was a real honor to come into the King's presence and the soldiers and their commanders were encouraged.

There was a general murmuring among the people about fully accepting and restoring David as the King of all Israel, so David took decisive action. He told the priests to send word to the elders saying, "Why should you be the last to restore the king to his palace?" Then David reminded them, "You are my brothers, my flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to restore the King?" 2 Samuel 19:12 (CSB).

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.

Plan • Nehemiah 2:1-8, 17-18

When faced with Jerusalem's extreme situation, a burdened Nehemiah cried out to God. Nehemiah learned of Jerusalem's situation in late Autumn. Opportunity to act presented itself in early Spring.

Nehemiah 2:1-5a. Take action when opportunities present themselves. Nehemiah had prayed that God would grant him success by Nehemiah's finding favor with the king and, that as a result, the king would be kind to him. Nehemiah also asked that God would answer his prayer "today" - Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT, NIV, KJV, CSB).

"Early the following spring...I was serving the king his wine..." Months later, Nehemiah is still burdened, but still waiting. The king notices that Nehemiah is "deeply troubled." Nehemiah is "terrified" because to look sad in the king's presence could result in death. Nehemiah presents the situation, and the king offers to help. Nehemiah 2:2-4a (NLT) Before responding, Nehemiah prays to God; then issues a request that the king send him "...to Judah to rebuild the city..."

Nehemiah can respond with any requests that he chooses. Surely, after months of carrying a burden for Jerusalem, he has many desires. However, Nehemiah recognizes that this opportunity is an answer to prayer. Therefore, Nehemiah goes to the "God of Heaven" before answering the king.

Nehemiah 2:5b-8. Actively plan for the work God has for you. Nehemiah boldly, but respectfully answers: "...send me to Judah..." As the king's cup bearer, Nehemiah holds a position of importance. Yet, with confidence, he asks the king to send him to Judah. Months of prayer and planning had enabled him to be organized and ready when opportunity presented itself.

From Genesis to Revelation, God is an organized Creator and Sustainer: creation; the building of the tabernacle, the ark, and the Temple; Salvation (from Genesis through Revelation). The New Testament encourages us to walk in the Spirit and to be guided by His revelation (Ephesians 4:17-32; Galatians 5). How do Believers plan and walk in the Spirit?

Paul admonishes the Thessalonians to "pray constantly" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 - CSB); Paul told Timothy that he prayed for him "Night and day..." 2 Timothy 1:3 (NLT); Paul told the Ephesians that he prayed for them constantly (Ephesians 1:16 - NLT). Paul was a busy man. He didn't stay on

his knees 24/7. The idea in these verses is to remain in a constant attitude of prayer. Jesus called this attitude "remaining in Him" John 15 (NLT, CSB). If Believers strive to remain in Jesus, they walk in the Spirit. Following the guidelines in Ephesians and Galatians for walking in the Spirit, Believers will perform their daily tasks with a mind that is open to God speaking into their lives - into their plans. Walking in the Spirit, does not mean that Believers do not plan. Believers leave their plans open to the redirecting of

the Spirit, discerning whether interruptions are distractions or opportunities to serve.

Nehemiah had plans that God had

put in his heart (Nehemiah 2:12), but he waited for God's timing to put his plan into action. When opportunity presented itself, Nehemiah prayed and moved.

Nehemiah 2:17-18. Enlist the support and help of others. Nehemiah entered Jerusalem prepared to begin his task. He had asked the king for letters to ensure safe passage and the securing of materials (Nehemiah

2:7-8) NLT. Three days after arriving, Nehemiah secretly surveyed the situation before speaking to the leaders in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:11-16). When Nehemiah approached the leaders prepared to motivate them to action. He was prepared, not only to present "...how the gracious hand of God..." has been upon him (verse 18) and the king's reaction; but he took time to survey the land and let God give him a practical plan. Chapter 3 details who and where everyone worked on the wall.

Nehemiah knew that he couldn't rebuild the wall alone. He would need the support and willingness of those who were living in Jerusalem.

A wise leader knows that his plans require support and help. A wise leader is a "leader," not a dictator or a know-it-all. Based on his communion with God, a wise leader approaches his workers with confidence; but he approaches with a servant's attitude (John 13:1-17).

Walking in the Spirit and planning are not mutually exclusive; but rather coexistent. The wise Believer remains in the Spirit through close adherence to the disciplines of prayer, Bible study, and private worship. He makes organized plans for ministry and service; but is always willing to be redirected by the Spirit.

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Bible Studies for Life

with Lisa Bannister



Just for the Record



The younger GA's of **SUNRISE CHURCH, LEAKE CO.**, went to camp at Central Hills Retreat recently. Shown are Emmalee Ray, Emma Vankomen, Lathan Sanders, Raylee Quick, Emmie McDaniel, Laura McMillon, and Marlie Clair Kelly.



LIBERTY CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, ordained pastor Tyler Willis Covington June 24. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and his Master of Divinity from Southern Seminary. He is a native of Summit. He is shown with his wife Mallory.



TYRO CHURCH, SENATOBIA, recognized mothers on Mother's Day.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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